

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) DGCA has issued mandatory guidelines under Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) dated 24th April, 1997 for mandatory carriage of Airborne Collision and Avoidance System (ACAS). As per this CAR, aeroplanes having seating capacity of more than 30 or pay load capacity of more than 3 tons, shall be required to instal ACAS-II on or before 31.12.98. Aeroplanes having seating capacity of 10 to 30 or pay load capacity of 1 to 3 tons shall be required to instal ACAS-I on or before 31.12.2003.

(b) and (c) Boeing-747 fleet of Air India is equipped with ACAS. Other aeroplanes of Air India and Indian Airlines are not equipped with ACAS. As regards foreign airlines, some airlines are not equipped with ACAS system, but will be required to instal the equipment for operation in Indian airspace by stipulated dates.

(d) The compliance of mandatory requirement of installation of Mode 'S' transponder was deferred due to non-availability of corresponding ground facilities at the Indian airports.

(e) Action against defaulting airlines will be taken after mandatory Circular of the DGCA comes into force w.e.f. 1.1.1999.

[Translation]

Management Committees for Railway Stations

*571. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding setting up of management committees for Railway Stations under the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such committees are likely to be set up; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Aluminium/Alumina Plant

*572 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some Bauxite based Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country during the Ninth during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof public/private sector-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The Government have no proposal to set-up any new Bauxite based Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country in public/joint sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the industrial policy, the aluminium industry has been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing with a view to encourage private investment in the aluminium sector.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Postal Services

*573. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for participation of private sector in postal services;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Participation of the private sector in Postal Services has been only marginal and that also in the role of augmenting the efforts of the Department of Posts. Private agencies have been participating in identified areas of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mails and provision of additional public facilities at a few places like, Post Shop. However, with the exception of those limited areas, it is not at present envisaged to involve private operators as an organised sector in the activities of the Department of Posts, both in terms of the extant policy of the Government in the postal sector and from the point of view of fulfilling the inherent social purpose of the postal services.

In order to provide basic postal facility like sale of stamps and stationery extensively, the Department of Posts has been allowing licenced agents to operate under specified terms and conditions.

The following agency system are presently in operation:-

Licenced Postal Agency:

This scheme, in operation since 1985, allows licensed agents to sell stamps and stationery and book registered articles. The agent is paid a percentage commission on the amount of stamps and stationery sold, and commission per registered article booked.

Keeping in view the staff opposition to the scheme, no new licence under this scheme is being issued since 1997. However, the agents given licence before the scheme